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JAPAN.

Report of infectious diseases in Japan.

YOKOHAMA, January 9, 1897.

SIR: I regret that I am again unable to forward my regular detailed report of infectious disease in Japan by the present mail. I am, however, in a position to say that there is a decided improvement in sanitary conditions throughout the country, with the exception of the city of Tokyo, where the epidemic of smallpox is increasing, there having occurred, from December 30 to January 8, 573 cases and 63 deaths. The same disease is diminishing in Hiogo Ken (Kobe district), the report for the week ended January 2 showing but 67 cases and 39 deaths as against nearly double this number of both during several weeks immediately preceding.

A few cases of cholera, nearly all fatal, continue to occur in Tokyo and Yokohama. From December 30 to January 8 there were in the former city 2 cases and 2 deaths, and in the latter 1 case and 1 death.

Of the plague in Formosa I have no recent report.

Dysentery has remarkably diminished during the past two weeks throughout the Empire.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

TURKEY.

Sanitary report of Constantinople—Precautions taken to prevent the entry of bubonic plague from India.

[Report 167.]

The sanitary condition of Constantinople seems to be improving slightly, the death returns giving a smaller number of deaths caused from zymotic diseases. During the fortnight ended the 11th of January there were 8 scarlet fever deaths, 4 from measles, 16 from diphtheria, 16 from smallpox, and 9 from typhoid fever. There are many cases of influenza with localization in the lungs. The bones are so painful that the patient can not make the slightest movement without feeling severe pains. I have to state that a physician contracted diphtheria while attending two children affected with the same disease. He recovered after the injection of the antidiphtheretic serum (Roux).

Bombay sanitary news is alarming, and the International Sanitary Commission has taken new steps in order to prevent the spread of bubonic pest in Turkey. I regret to state that in spite of the decisions of the above-mentioned commission, Bassorah, as well as all the right coast of the Persian Gulf, is not at all defended. Not only is there no lazaretto in which passengers could undergo their quarantine; not only is it difficult to establish one, but the decision taken to repulse the ships coming from contaminated places will oblige passengers to land where no officials of any kind will be to prevent them. The coast is so large and communications between the two seashores are so frequent that a little fleet could hardly prevent the communications. We must not forget that cholera was raging on that seashore during the years 1887, 1888, and 1889, and nobody was aware of the existence there of the epidemic.

I forward a copy in French of the different decisions of the International Sanitary Commission concerning quarantines, as well as a copy of the *teskèrè* by which the grand vizier communicates an imperial *iradé*.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO.

[Inclosures.]

[Circular telegram addressed to health offices January 1, 1897.]

By decision of the superior council of health, vessels having presented cases of plague on board, either during the voyage or on arrival at Bassorah, shall be provisionally refused entry until a more complete quarantine establishment shall be installed at the lazaretto of Fao.

Vessels arriving from Muscat and Bahrein shall be subject to a quarantine of ten days at the lazaretto of Bassorah.

Dr. COZZONIS,
Inspector-General.

[Circular telegram to the health offices, dated January 6, 1897.]

By decision of the superior council of health, river vessels arriving from Mohamara shall be subject to a quarantine of ten days at the lazaretto of Bassorah, with strict disinfection of clothing and effects of passengers and crew.

Passengers and merchandise arriving by land from Persian territory comprised between Mohamara, inclusive, and Hamiegtrine, exclusive, shall be refused entrance.

Dr. COZZONIS,
Inspector-General.

[Circular telegram to health offices, dated January 6, 1897.]

By decision of the superior council of health, pilgrim vessels arriving from Hindustan and Kurachee shall be subject to a quarantine of fifteen days at the lazaretto, with strict disinfection of clothing, baggage, and effects of the pilgrims landed, as well as of all susceptible merchandise. Silk goods and new articles shall be exposed to the air and sun.

Vessels arriving from the localities named on which cases of plague shall have presented themselves during the voyage or on arrival at the lazaretto, shall have the option of returning with their pilgrim passengers to their port of departure. In case they do not avail themselves of this provision, they shall be subject to a quarantine of twenty days, dating from the last case of plague declared on board. These vessels shall also be completely unloaded of their merchandise, which shall be subjected to strict disinfection. Suspected articles belonging to pilgrims shall be burned, together with all effects having appertained to persons dead of the plague.

Dr. COZZONIS,
Inspector-General.

Teskèrè of his highness the grand vizier to his excellency the minister of the imperial sanitary department, read at a session of the council January 12, 1897.

JANUARY 11, 1897.

The vice-president has stated in a *teskèrè*, that in consequence of the increase of the epidemic of plague at Bombay during the past week, and the approach of the pilgrim season, the council of health has decided, with the view of preventing the importation of the disease into the Hedjaz, and as an exceptional measure, to raise the ten days' quarantine to fifteen days at the lazaretto of Camaran for all pilgrim vessels arriving from any point on the Indian littoral, and from Kurachee, and to adopt other prophylactic measures. This decision has been carried into effect, but as recent advices from the inspector at Camaran show that 2 cases of plague have occurred in transit on board a vessel arrived from Bombay at Camaran with 1,045 pilgrims, and as the fact of the serious aggravation of the epidemic at Bombay, and the risk of its introduction at Camaran by the pilgrims still further emphasize the importance of the sanitary measures ordered for the Hedjaz, the *teskèrè* in question declares the absolute necessity of raising the allotment for the Hedjaz to 462,000 piasters and over before the expiration of the current week, in order that the physicians and the sanitary corps may be immediately designated to undertake without loss of time the execution of sanitary measures.

His highness, the first secretary of the imperial palace, informs me by a *teskèrè* that